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(74) Agents: BERSON, Olga et al.; Hogan & Hartson L.L.P., Biltmore Tower, 500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900, Los Angeles, CA 90071 (US).

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA [US/US]; 3716 South Hope Street, Suite 313, Los Angeles, CA 90007-4344 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): DENNY, Patricia, A. [US/US]; University of Southern California, 3716 South Hope Street, Suite 313, Los Angeles, CA 90007-4344 (US). DENNY, Paul, C. [US/US]; University of Southern California, 3716 South Hope Street, Suite 313, Los Angeles, CA 90007-4344 (US). NAVAZESH, Mahvash [US/US]; University of Southern California, 3716 South Hope Street, Suite 313, Los Angeles, CA 90007-4344 (US).

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## (54) Title: CARIES RISK TEST FOR PREDICTING AND ASSESSING THE RISK OF DISEASE

(57) Abstract: Provided are methods, test devices, and diagnostic kits for predicting, assessing, and diagnosing the risk of a disease using salivary analysis. The method comprises providing a whole (unfractionated) saliva sample from a subject; contacting an aliquot of said saliva with one or more lectins under conditions that allow said one or more lectins to bind to a lectin-binding component of said saliva; detecting the amount of bound lectin; and comparing the amount of bound lectin to the amount known to bind a saliva sample from a control patient, to predict the risk of a disease in the subject. Also provided are methods for reducing the risk of a disease and a method for assessing the risk of the disease at a defined level.